

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES

### DATES:

- Dec. 3—RW Classes/Christmas prac. 10 am-2 pm
- Dec. 8—Dress Rehearsal 2-5 pm—Grace Fellowship
- Dec. 9—7:00 pm IS Christmas Program—Grace Fell.
- Dec. 10—Salvation Army work day
- Jan. 7—Turn in date for Creative Writing (4-12) contest
- Jan. 14—Bird Banding at Gorman Nature Center
- Jan. 17—No school
- Jan. 21—RW K-6 Speech Meet Tryouts
- Jan. 21—end 2nd 9 wks. Grades due
- Feb. 4—RW 9:00 am Math by Mail Qualifying Testing
- Feb. 4—RW K-6 classes
- Feb. 10—Family Science Night—RW 7:00 pm
- Feb. 15—Tour WVNO—2 tours at 11 am & 1 pm
- Feb. 18—No RW classes
- Feb. 25—RW K-6 classes
- Mar. 1—Ellis Island—Ren. Theater 12:30
- Mar. 11—Speech Meet—Delaware Christian
- Mar. 14-18—OGT tests
- Mar. 17—10:00 am RW—Math by Mail Testing
- Mar. 24—American Toy Marble Museum 10:00 am
- Mar. 24—Tour of Harry London Chocolate Factory
- Mar. 29—K-12 IS Talent Night
- Mar. 29—9-12 Community Service Day MCS
- Mar. 31—Apr. 2—MidWest Cincinnati Home School Convention
- Apr. 9—Flamin' Hot Breakfast
- Apr. 15—Grandparents Day—K-6 RW
- Check your email every day for messages pertaining to Independent Studies. That is your main avenue to get information about field trips, schedules, and much more.
- Keep Saving those Box Tops! Even if you don't need the credit for Heartland, we sure can use the money in the IS Program.



# Home Sweet Home

... Choose you this day whom you will serve. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

## DECEMBER 2010

## Jesus - God's Indescribable Gift to Us

"Giving gifts is no substitute for giving of yourself and your time; if things aren't right in relationships between you and others or between you and the Lord, then your gifts act as bribes and are not pleasing to the Lord.

The most precious gifts to me as a Grandma now with kids and grandkids scattered across the US, are not things that money can buy, even though we all enjoy those things. But rather time, coming home, just watching a football game together, playing with the kids, a phone call from Colorado or Arizona, a handwritten note from one of my kids or grandkids. – Those are the priceless gifts that touch my heart the most, not all the things money can buy.

### Christmas gift suggestions :

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

We so easily forget the reason we celebrate Christmas – Jesus came as the most perfect gift God could give us. It's about Him and not about us and how much we can "get."

II Corinthians 9:15 <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

A reminder of the supreme example of giving: *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* (v. 15). We can never out give God, for he gave beyond all human imagining. In fact, he gave what Paul calls an

*indescribable gift*. Something that is beyond human description. We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

God so loved us that he gave the ultimate gift, whose cost can never be matched: the gift of his only Son. – born to die for us.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

## Merry Christmas



## Important Reminders

For updates on activities specific to our program, check out the calendar at [www.mcsflames.org](http://www.mcsflames.org). The new MCS website is now online. You can find daily announcements, calendars, IS information, forms, field trip information, and much more.

Emails pertaining specifically to home schooling and the IS program are sent regularly - **check your email every day**. All families should also check

your family folders at least once a week. They are in the MCS IS office and at RW during K-6 classes.

Please **return any textbooks or materials from the Resource Room** you're not using; thank you for helping in this; we will be contacting you if you still have materials checked out from previous years. These items are very expensive so we count on you returning them in a timely manner.

**I will no longer be leaving the folders out in the hallway at MCS.** They will be in the IS office, so if there is something you're making a special trip to pick up, please check first to make sure someone is in the office.

We received a call from a lady **collecting coats** for the PumpHouse in Ashland and the elective Academy in Mansfield now through December 20. Call



## I Corinthians 13 - A Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

*Love never fails.*

**“Isaiah 9:6-7  
“For to us a child  
is born, to us a  
son is given, and  
the government  
will be on His  
shoulders and He  
will be called  
Wonderful  
Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting  
Father, Prince of  
Peace.”**



## Heartland Retreat Sign Up

***Heartland Outdoor School***, scheduled for 3 days and 2 nights **May 9-11, 2011**. Cost approximately \$110/student with adult costs being half that. Begin saving your box tops to help with the costs.

In order to become more familiar with Heartland Outdoor School you can sign up online to receive *Nature Notes*. You can subscribe by signing up at [www.Heartlandretreat.com](http://www.Heartlandretreat.com).

This is a great way to let students and parents know the camp, the staff, and enjoy some fun facts and activities. New this year at Heartland is an indoor climbing wall, a wetland/prairie grass area, “Email a Camper” link on the website and much more.

I know that \$110 is a lot, but I assure you, it is worth every dime you spend. The meals are wonderful, the activities

outstanding, the rules strictly enforced, and the staff excellent.

New this year will be the opportunity for you to ***invite your friends that home school independently***. The more we have attend the cheaper the price. I do encourage you, however, to only invite those that you know are of like mind with our group with similar standards and behavioral expectation. I will be staying again this year and will welcome other adult supervision, both men and women.

There will be a sign up at RW for you at the next class. I'm excited and hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

This event is geared for 2nd—6th grade, however we did have Kdt.—8th grade participate last year and had a great time. Please let me

know if you have questions.

Check out their website. I personally know the director. He was in our IS program when he was young. Joe Hughes loves the Lord, nature, and kids!! What a great combination.

Let me know soon if you're interested in participating and if you're willing to stay as a chaperone. The more we sign up, the cheaper it is per person!



# HS Test Preparation Tips

## ACT/SAT Preparation:

All experts agree that students should do multiple practice exams to get a solid feel for the directions and typical wording of the questions. Opinions vary widely on how helpful pro coaching is. In a recent survey of more than 14,000 students, researchers at the University of Colorado found that professional help raised ACT scores by only half a point.

Here are some tips to help prepare for the ACT/SAT tests:

Sign up for SAT question of the Day at collegeboard.com, ACT Question of

the day at act.org, & Word of the day at princetonreview.com.

Write common vocabulary words on index cards—lists are available on the Web.—Read through a couple words per day—it works!

ACT: there's no penalty for incorrect answers, so it pays to guess even if you aren't sure. Using the same letter for every guess nets more correct answers than choosing at random.

Make sure your student has everything he'll need—sharpened #2 pencils, new batteries in his

calculator, a watch with a second hand, test registration form, & driver's license or school ID card. Proper photo ID is required.

SAT—cost \$47 if sign up by the deadline—offered 7 times a year; multiple choice, reasoning-based test; broken into 3 main sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics & Writing; Subject tests also available.

ACT—cost \$33 w/o writing or \$48 with writing portion; multiple choice, curriculum-based. Subject areas are English, math, reading, Science plus optional writing. Offered 6 times per year.

Very helpful test prep information at act.org and collegeboard.com.



**THE HOMESCHOOL EVENT OF THE YEAR—MIDWEST HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION CINCINNATI, OH MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2011 EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS AT :WWW.GREATHOMESCHOOL CONVENTIONS.COM**

## Helpful Websites

[www.moneyinstructor.com/spending](http://www.moneyinstructor.com/spending)—lessons, games on money

<http://home-school.lovetoknow.com> your source for everything related to home education; worksheets, lists, and other printables designed to make teaching your kids easier. You'll find spelling lists, math facts, state facts, and more. Best of all, our articles and printables are always free.

[www.homeschooldiscountbooks.com](http://www.homeschooldiscountbooks.com) Links to Christian Book distributors, but easy way to navigate the site to find specific curriculum.

<http://homeschoolbookexchange.com> for homeschool families to buy and sell used and new books and other materials. No listing fees and only a small seller's fee when an item sells. Done by a

homeschool family in Alabama. <http://mathops.com>—New online algebra program at no charge; Free lessons—there are printable record keeping documents for pre-algebra and algebra students.

[www.mcsflames.org](http://www.mcsflames.org)—our new website is up!! You will find this a wealth of information—check out our pictures under academics— independent studies; you will find daily announcements, forms, power points of Mr. Mitchell's parent meetings and so much more.

## ACSI Events

IS will be participating in the Speech Meet (grades 1-6), Creating Writing (grades 4-12) and the Mail in Math (grades 3-8).

**The Creative Writing competition** is a mail-in event and must be complete by January 31, 2011. There is a limit of 15 entries per school. **The deadline for turning in your work is Friday, January 7.** The following have signed up: Michael Adams, madison Adams.

Anyone else?

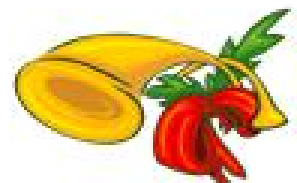
**Math by Mail** is also a mail-in event complete by February 11, 2011. **The qualifying testing will be held Friday, Feb. 4 at 9:00 am before classes at RW. Actual testing will be held Thurs., Mar. 17 at 10:00 am at RW.** The following have signed up: Sarah Johnson, Joel & Matthew Golias, Michael and Madison Adams, Hannah Earhart. Anyone else?

**Speech Meet is March 11, 2011 at Delaware Christian.** We will

have **tryouts for this regional competition Friday, January 21, during RW classes.** Speech Meet Packets to choose from scripture or poetry were put in your folders..

We are permitted to send in 1 winner from each grade per category.

The details can be found on the new web site: [www.mcsflames.org](http://www.mcsflames.org) then academics, then Independent Studies then Elementary.



*“Thanks be to  
God for His  
indescribable gift.  
We can never out  
give God.”*



# The Golias Family—*continued from back page*

I love the IS program at MCS! I feel so blessed to have such good encouragement, support and guidance. Being under the umbrella of MCS is also a stress-reliever for me because I do not have to worry about the same kinds of hassles as my independent-homeschooling peers. I also love that my children know more about the Bible at their young ages than I did as a young adult in college! I take no credit for this—they have an excellent Bible teacher. However, if we

opportunity to attend this class.

I'll conclude with some verses from Deuteronomy that sum up our desires in teaching our children to love God and His Word:

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your

hearts. 7 Impress doorframes of your houses and on your them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

Mrs. Andrea Golias

## IS Field Trips

**Friday, December 17 is our annual Project Serve Day at the Salvation Army.**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE** -We will plan to work around the building in whatever way they choose to use us from 9:00 to 11:15. Pizza will be served for all at 11:30. This will be our Christmas Party. We are asking for a donation of \$1 per person to help cover the cost of the pizza. We are also in need of some 2 liters of soda. Please let Marie know if you can bring some.

There is no dress code for the Salvation Army—Jeans are fine and whatever the kids wear to the Salvation Army is fine for RW that day as well. Dress warmly. Kdt—6th **will then go to RW for classes from 12:30 -2:00 to finish Christmas art projects.**

**Friday, January 14** - We will assist in "**Bird Banding**" **at the Gorman Nature Center** at 10am. Gorman Nature Center feeds birds throughout the winter and

study the many birds that visit their feeders. We will watch how the birds are caught then help to band them for future study. This field trip is free.

**“Harold and the Purple Crayon” -Jan. 6—12:30 pm**—Ren. Theater—geared for pre-K-3rd grade. Cost is \$3.50. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 3, so call ASAP or email if you're interested.



## General Events

**Gorman Nature Center—Moms & Kids** every Wednesday morning either from 9-10 am or 10-11 am. Geared for pre-schoolers—a wonderful free program!

**COSI Home school Workshops:** Dec. 2 Alternative Energy  
COSI members: \$20 each adult/child pair then \$10 additional person/ non

members twice above price. Check out [www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org). For other activities for the family.

# Specifically 7th—12th

**Classes for 7th—8th grade at RW:** Kim Dixon is teaching art. Cost is \$10/student and classes are already in progress.

A **sewing class** will begin in January & last 6 weeks. Helpers work in the mornings and have class after lunch this year. There is a sign up at RW or you can email me of your student's interest. This should be a lot of fun!

**Wednesday, January 12—3:15—4:30 pm—7th—12th grade**

**Parent Meeting** with JoAnn at MCS in Room 111. Topic tbd. Let us know if you have suggestions.

**March 14—18—all 10th graders take the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)** one section per day. Each section is allowed 2 1/2 hours. Mark your calendars now.

MCS High school will be having **end of semester exams with revised schedules Wednesday, Jan. 19—Friday, Jan. 21.** make sure you get a copy of that schedule from JoAnn.

The next date to **take the ACT** test is December 11, but you would have already had to register. There is another test date February 12, 2011 with a registration deadline of January 7. There is also a test date April 9 with a registration deadline of March 4 & a test date of June 11 with a registration deadline of May 6.

If you are interested in having your sophomore student take PSO classes next year, your student must take the ACT in February.

*“Jesus’ life is the Highest and the Holiest entering in at the Lowliest door. Our Lord’s birth was an advent.”*

*My Utmost for His Highest*

## IS Christmas Program— “It All Happened in the Country”

**Thursday, December 9—7:00 p.m. Grace Fellowship Church**

Director: Mrs. Lori Bourcier  
Questions? Call 419-564-5734

Parents needed to help with stage-prep, costumes, etc. Please let Lori know if you can help.

Supplies needed: Butter churn, rocking chairs, wash tub, hay bales, façade, Christmas tree, manger, whittling knife & stick, bowls of beans, corn stalks, clothes line with clothes on it, straw stack, trinkets & whittled boats & things laying

around, wooden park bench. Please let us know if you have any of these items we can use. We are still in need of someone with a truck that can pick up the risers from MCS and take them to Grace and also return them. Let me know if you are available to do this. Also need someone to video.

Make sure students are listening to their CDs at home and learning their parts. This will expedite practice times.

**Invite family & friends!!**

Dec. 8—2-5 pm—Dress Rehearsal—Grace Fellowship—Call Lori if you're not sure what your child is supposed to wear. Your children should know if they're "country kids" or "city kids."

Each family is asked to bring a dozen Christmas cookies for refreshments after the program. These can be brought the day of dress rehearsal or the night of the performance.

We would like to give Lori a gift for her directing, so I am also collecting money for a gift for her. This can be given to Marie or I. Thank you



## Specifically Elementary

While at RW we have been giving students the **STAR Reading Diagnostic Test.** I will be printing those results for you; At the end of the year students will be tested again to document progress. I think you'll be encouraged by these results. Your students can also take **Accelerated Reader tests** while at RW. Let me know if you're interested.

Marie sent in 2,608 **box tops for education.** Good job to all who collected. Keep up the good work! **The next deadline is February.** Remember, this can reduce the price for the Heartland Outdoor School or bring in money for the IS program which will directly benefit all of you.

**Please make sure your student come with warm coats, hats, and**

**gloves to RW classes.** Unless it's terribly cold and snowy. We've talked about a sledding party, so watch your emails for that which would have to be spur of the moment based on weather.

There are a lot of **lost and found items at RW** that will be donated to a needy cause the end of the year. Make sure you check these out when you're at RW. They'll be inside the front door near the folders.

## Family Profile:

# The Goliath Family

My name is Andrea, and I'd like to introduce the Goliath family to you. First of all, our last name is pronounced like "Goliath", but with an "s" at the end. The very first time I heard my husband's name (David Goliath), I thought it was hilarious, never dreaming that about 6 years later I would share that name too!

We met at Grove City College in PA where we both earned Bachelor's degrees--mine in Psychology, Dave's in Mechanical Engineering. I never pursued any further education since my dream was to be a stay-at-home mom, and Dave has been working for HP as a network specialist supporting General Motors. (Dave worked at the GM plant in Ontario, but now works from home supporting GM accounts all over the world.)

God has blessed us with four really wonderful children. Our 2 sons are Joel (5th grade) and Matthew (3rd grade), and we have twin daughters, Mary and Isabel, who are in 1st grade. All four kids play soccer, and Dave coaches or assists in coaching

them all. As a family, we like to play games, do puzzles, watch movies and go out to eat. We are also very involved at our church. For Thanksgiving, we usually visit the Goliath side of the family in Eastern PA, and we spend Christmas in Ohio (my parents live in Westerville, where I grew up). Our favorite Christmas tradition is eating homemade cinnamon rolls on Christmas morning.

It was never my dream or intention to be a homeschooling parent, but this is now my third year doing it. We always wanted to provide our children with an education that was both biblically sound and academically strong. MCS was a good fit, however, we just could not afford to send four kids there full-time.

Towards the middle of Joel's second grade year, God truly changed my heart (then Dave's) about homeschooling. We prayed about it a lot, and felt led to do it (if not forever, at least for now). It is certainly not easy, but I can see how the Lord is working to grow us all and draw us closer to Him.

I asked each of the kids why they like being homeschooled, and here are their responses:

Joel: "There are no time limits! I can spend an hour on one subject, and then 5 minutes on another." (Joel is our very independent learner.)

Matthew: "I like having my mother as my teacher." (Matthew is our tender-hearted one who can also be a challenge :))

Mary: "I don't have to wake up early!"

Isabel: "I don't have to go to school every day, and get dressed and eat breakfast so fast!" (The girls both attended morning Kindergarten at MCS last year, and like their parents, are NOT morning people.)

*Continued on top of pg. 4*

